

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the special meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President McCarthy requested Council Member McBride-Lee lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President McCarthy requested Council Member Salter lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack Banta
132nd District: John Olson,
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District:
137th District: Aidee Nieves
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District:

A quorum was present.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

171-15 Contracts Committee Report re: (Ref. #73-14) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with National Association of Government Employees, Local RI-200 (NAGE) regarding their Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement.

Council Member Banta requested a roll call vote.

Council Member Herron reported that there was a Contracts Committee meeting during the previous week and that the Committee vote had not been unanimous, which was why this item was on the agenda.

Council Member Olson asked Mr. Freddino, the NAGE Vice President to report on how the Union voted. Mr. Freddino came forward and said that the contract had been presented to the union membership.

Council Member Brantley joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Freddino gave an overview of the contract terms.

Council Member Banta asked what would happen after the contract expires. Mr. Freddino said that the union would go back into negotiations.

Mr. Freddino said that the final vote count was 119 in favor and 79 against.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 171-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #73-14) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, LOCAL RI-200 (NAGE) REGARDING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, NIEVES, PAOLETTO, AND SMITH); ONE (1) OPPOSED (BANTA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (BUKOVSKY).**

172-15 Contracts Committee Report re: (Ref. #185-14) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bridgeport City Supervisor's Association (BCSA) regarding their Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement.

Council Member Olson asked if the Union President was in attendance to address the Council. He was told that the Union President was not, but that Ms. Hawkins, the head of Labor Relations was. Ms. Hawkins came forward and gave an overview of the contract terms for the Council Members.

Council Member Brantley asked when the contract would expire. Ms. Hawkins stated that it would expire in 2018.

Council Member Herron said that at the Contracts Committee meeting, the Council Members had asked about many of the details of the contract.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that regarding jobs, that something was better than nothing. While the give-backs were difficult, people still would be able to support their families.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she was happy that there was a good relationship with the unions and that she could see that the due diligence had been done. She then asked if there was any possibility of changing the MOU once it was approved. Ms. Hawkins said that this was a binding contract, but added that there were some situations that were not covered, such as the grant funded positions or employees who might be facing disciplinary issues.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked how many members voted in favor of the contract. Ms. Hawkins replied that she had not been told the final vote counts, but only that the contract has been approved.

Council Member Bukovsky asked if the City Supervisor's salary increase noted in the contract would remain the same in 2017. Ms. Hawkins said this was correct.

A roll call vote was requested.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 172-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #185-14) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (BCSA) REGARDING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, NIEVES, PAOLETTO, AND SMITH); ONE (1) OPPOSED (BANTA).**

Following the vote, Council Member Lyons asked for a point of personal privilege. She then asked Ms. Hawkins why there were so many jobs lost in AFSCME Local 1522. Ms. Hawkins explained that all the unions were asked to make concessions. AFSCME Local 1522 did not negotiate or attend any of the discussions. All the unions were asked to come to the table. AFSCME Local 1522 did not respond.

Council President McCarthy thanked Ms. Hawkins for taking a leadership role.

Council Member Lyons stated that a number of jobs had been lost.

Some members of AFSCME Local 1522 were in the audience and said that they had been upstairs in a meeting and did not know about this. One member asked what she would have to give up to keep her job because the union did not represent her. She then went on to speak about her concerns about the situation including not letting a child walk home alone in the dark because the bus routes were changed.

Council President McCarthy suggested they may wish to contact the Department of Labor regarding these issues. Both Council Members Herron and Lyons said that they would be available to speak with people after the meeting. Council President McCarthy said that he would also be available after the meeting.

Council Member Olson said that the Mayor did not give one extra penny to the BOE and that the Council was not standing up to the unions.

A Union official said that the voting on the contract was supposed to start at 5:30 p.m. but when he got to the site at 5:00 p.m., there were already ballots in the box because the union president had told people to vote early.

Council Member McCarthy thanked everyone for their input.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services